Publications of Department of Biotechnology

6544. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how many research publications, research papers, and monographs have been brought out by the Department of Biotechnology during the last year;

(b) what are the magazines which are brought out by the Department;

(c) whether the magazines will be supplied to the Members of Parliament interested therein; and

(d) in what manner the programmes of the Department will be made use of in the MPs Local Area Development Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPTTS. OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) The Department of Biotechnology has been suoporting more than 1000 research projects. As per the available information during the last 5 years about 3000 publications have come out in national and - international journals and 9 monographs have been published. The popular magazines namely 'Vigyan Pragati' and 'Science Reporter' published by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research are also supported.

(c) Yes Sir;

(d) Biotechnology based programmes for specific regions could be developed to meet the requirements of any special local area development scheme. This will be based on the technology packages generated through research & development efforts. Local research institutions can be involved in their implementation as biotechnology is a knowledge-intensive and skill-based effort

Research efforts to convert genetic wealth into economic wealth

6545. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what research efforts are being made to convert genetic wealth into economic wealth and conservation of biodiversity;

(b) what steps are being taken to strengthen these efforts; and

(c) what are the details of the linkages which have been developed with other Departments and Ministries for the programmes of their interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPTTS. OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) A number of programmes for pollution control, biodiveresity convervaiton and utilisation, and generation of environmentally sustainable technologies such as development of biofertilizers, biocontrol agents, bioleaching processes etc. have been started. Special research projects for conservation of himalayan, desert, coastal regions and mangroves using biotechnological tools are under implementation.

Three gene banks have been established for conservation of medicinal and aromatic plants in Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (TBGRI), Trivandrum; Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow; and National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi. For producing high quality planting material for forest trees two Tissue Culture Pilot Plant facilities have been set up. Oilpalm and Cardamom projects have demonstrated high productiviety.